

**DISK DRIVE HAVING A PROTECTED PARTITION CONFIGURED TO LOAD AN  
OPERATING SYSTEM FOR PERFORMING A USER-SELECTED FUNCTION**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5 A system for configuring, loading and executing an operating system for performing a  
user-selected function is disclosed. The system includes a disk drive including: a host-accessible  
user partition; a host-inaccessible hidden partition independent of the host-accessible user partition; and  
a disk controller. The user partition includes: a user partition address range; a host-selected operating  
system; and a host-selected master boot record. The host-inaccessible hidden partition includes: a  
10 hidden partition address range outside the user partition address range; an application program for  
allowing a user to select a function to perform and configuring, loading and executing an operating  
system to perform the selected function; and a drive-selected boot record for loading and executing the  
application program that allows the user to select a function and configures, loads and executes an  
operating system for performing the function.